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Title : Need to finalize the process for privatization of ESI hospitals in Kolhapur and Pune for the benefit of labour force.

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR): The Government of India has established many hospitals all over India, under the Employees State Insurance Scheme. This scheme is implemented under both Central and State Governments.

Employees State Insurance Corporation has built three hospitals at Kolhapur, Pimpri-Chinchawad and Bibewadi in Maharashtra. These hospitals were built in 1996 at the cost of Rs. 25 crores and should have been handed over to State Government of Maharashtra for starting hospitals. However, State Government of Maharrashtra has expressed its inability to take over these hospitals. This inability was conveyed in the year 1994 and again in 2001. the workers in the areas filed a suit in High Court of Mumbai insisting on immediate starting of hospitals. However, ESIC submitted a proposal to the court on 8.10.2001 to privatize and start the hospitals. This was with due approval of ESIC Board. The case before the Court was disposed off accordingly.

However, till today despite Government of Maharashtra's willingness and a tender for privatization in Times of India Dated 27.5.2001, the final action to handover hospital to approved private party has not been taken and it is learnt that the entire case has been referred to legal cell of Labour Ministry and in the meanwhile Government of India has recovered 9 crore rupees from Government of Maharashtra by way of rent even without handing over the hospital buildings. The entire expenditure and non-starting has been objected to in CAG report in 2002.

I urge upon the Labour Minister to finalise the process of privatization and start the hospital in the larger interest of labour force in Kolhapur and Pune in Maharashtra.